State of Vermont

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February 25, 2000

MAXINE CUMMINGS
11030 HOLLY DRIVE
LUSBY MARYLAND 20657-2433

RE: Site Management Activity Completed, Former Purcell Oil
White River Junction (Hartford), Vermont (Site #96-1947)

Dear Ms. Cummings:

The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, Sites Management Section (SMS) has received confirmation from the Hartford Town Clerk that a Notice has been added to the Land Record for the above referenced property. This Notice describes the type of residual soil and groundwater contamination remaining at the site. With this institutional control established, the site is now eligible for a SMAC (Site Management Activity Completed) designation. This determination is elaborated on below.

The contamination at the site was from bulk petroleum distribution operations, that were begun in the 1930's and were discontinued in 1990. The site has been investigated since 1996, and included extensive groundwater and soil sampling for heavy metals, volatile and semivolatile organic compounds, and total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH). Much of the contamination was removed during November 1997, when nearly 190 tons of contaminated soils were removed and treated.

The remaining contaminants of concern include 1,2,4-trimethylbenzene, 1,3,5,-trimethylbenzene, naphthalene, and TPH. In the area of the former above ground bulk storage tanks, the final groundwater analytical results (April 1999) indicated that trimethylbenzene isomers and naphthalene were present at concentrations above the Vermont Groundwater Enforcement Standards (VGESs). However, downgradient groundwater monitoring wells located within the property boundaries were in compliance with the VGESs. The area is served by municipally supplied water, and groundwater at the site is not being used. For residual soil contamination, there is a limited area of TPH contamination slightly above recommended guideline levels proximal to the former bulk tank product piping termini. This area is beneath a warehouse, and is listed in select reports as "Structure B." Frequent exposure to this contamination is precluded by its presence in a crawl space beneath a building.

A sensitive receptor survey performed by your environmental consultant, The Johnson Company, Inc., indicated that the contamination neither threatens human health nor the environment.

Based on the current conditions at this site, the SMS has determined that this site is now eligible for a SMAC designation. This means that the SMS has concluded the following:

(Over)

- petroleum distribution operations at the site have ceased and are no longer a potential source of additional contamination at the site;
- residual groundwater contamination is limited to the immediate vicinity of the former bulk petroleum storage tanks;
- approximately 190 tons of petroleum contaminated soil was excavated and thermally treated at ESMI in Louden, New Hampshire;
- residual soil contamination is limited to areas that preclude frequent exposure; and
- any residual contamination does not pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment.

Based on the above, it appears that residual contamination is limited to less accessible areas and does not pose an unreasonable risk to human health and safety or to the environment. Therefore, the SMS is assigning this site a Site Management Activity Completed (SMAC) designation. This SMAC designation does not release Maxine Cummings of any past or future liability associated with the contamination remaining in the ground from the former petroleum distribution operation. It does, however, mean that the SMS is not requesting any additional work at this time. If the monitoring wells are no longer to be used or maintained, then they must be properly closed to eliminate a possible conduit for contaminant migration into the subsurface. This closure typically involves filling the wells with a grout material to prevent fluid migration in the borehole. Specific requirements for well closure are outlined in Section 12.3.5 in Appendix A of the Vermont Water Supply Rule-Chapter 21. Also, the road box or stand-up well guard for a monitoring well must be removed before well closure is considered complete. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact either me or Matt Moran at 802-241-3888.

Sincerely,

George Desch, Chief
Sites Management Section

cc: Hartford Selectboard
Hartford Health Officer
DEC Regional Office
James Bowes, The Johnson Company

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